



Exam Duration: Approximately 1 hour per day **IV Required?** Yes

Exam Preparation: Somatostatin therapy must be discontinued prior to this exam, usually 3 days. Contact the nuclear medicine department to verify. Other nuclear exams performed within 2-3 days may interfere. Imaging studies using oral barium performed within 2-3 days may interfere. Preparation for imaging days *after* the initial appointment is necessary. See below for details.

An Octreoscan is a nuclear medicine exam that is very useful in the diagnosis of certain types of tumors. It may be ordered to search for a suspected carcinoid or neuroendocrine tumor, or it may be used to verify whether or not a known tumor exhibits characteristics of a specific tumor type. It can also be used in the management of these conditions, evaluating the impact of therapeutic procedures performed.

Exam Procedure: Octreotide imaging is always a multiple day procedure. At your first appointment, a nuclear medicine technologist will explain the exam in detail and ask questions about your medical history. An IV will be started in your arm and you will receive an injection of a radioactive tracer. You will then be free to go, returning to the department 4 hours later for the first set of images. This will take approximately 1 hour to complete, and may include whole-body imaging, 3D imaging, or both. Imaging is repeated the following day, and may continue for up to 3 days after the initial appointment.

The tracer used for this exam exhibits uptake in normal bowel, which can be problematic for abdominal imaging. Most patients will be asked to follow a specific diet and bowel prep regimen after the first day. Magnesium citrate is provided by the department for bowel preparation, and a clear liquid diet will be necessary for most of the day. If you have special considerations for your diet, please discuss them with the technologist performing your exam on the first day.

Please note that there is no bowel or diet preparation necessary for the first appointment.

Some long-acting somatostatin (or ‘cold octreotide’) therapy may need to be stopped for more than 3 days prior to the exam. Contact the nuclear medicine department to verify preparation prior to your exam if you are on somatostatin therapy.

Notes: Wear comfortable clothing to your appointment. Metal objects (jewelry, belts, keys, etc.) will need to be removed prior to imaging, but can be kept in the department with you.

Patients are encouraged to bring an MP3 player and headphones if desired, as listening to music will not interfere with the exam so long as the area of interest does not include the head.

Please feel free to contact the Nuclear Medicine department with any questions at (405) 307-1655.